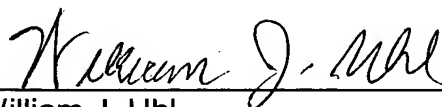


REMARKS

This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/146,856, filed May 16, 2002, which has been allowed. It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and an early and favorable response to this amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the attorney listed below should there be any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William J. Uhl", is written over a horizontal line.

William J. Uhl
Registration No. 25,567
Attorney of Record
Telephone No.: (412) 434-2881
Facsimile No.: (412) 434-4292

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 5, 2004